

The Times' Daily Short Story.

A Costly Adventure

[Original.]
When the Union Pacific railroad was finished to Laramie a line of coaches took its passengers southward to Denver. One evening the coach waited the arrival of the train; but, the station agent receiving a telegram that the latter was several hours behind time, the former was sent out with but two passengers, a rancher and his daughter. The girl had been east at school, and her father was taking her home. During the twilight the two enjoyed the scenery from the coach window, but when darkness came leaned back on the cushion and each fell into a doze.

Suddenly they were aroused by the crack of a rifle, the breaks were put on and the coach came to a stop. Then, after a few words spoken roughly to the driver, the coach door was thrown open and a masked man thrust in his head. In the darkness nothing but his form could be distinguished.

A masked man took the valuables of both, then said to the girl, "Have you nothing else for me?"

There was no answer. The girl was too frightened to answer.

"Well, then," continued the man, "I'll take your own sweet self."

At this the father went wild, begging and pleading for his child.

"Calm yourself, my dear sir," said the agent. "Your daughter shall come to no harm."

"What do you want with her?"

"Nothing except what she will herself wish. Come! I can't be fooling here."

And, taking the girl by the hand, he led her out of the coach.

There was something in the man's voice that won her confidence, and her fear left her. He seemed strangely polite and tender hearted for a road agent.

As soon as she had alighted he lifted her on to a horse furnished with a woman's saddle and, mounting himself, seized a leading strap and galloped away with her.

Meanwhile the Union Pacific train reached Laramie, and the passengers for Denver were provided with an extra coach. There were half a dozen passengers, including a Denver banker and his niece. Most of them were Denver people, acquainted with one another, and they were having a merry time before settling to sleep, when there was a hold up and they were ordered to alight, line up and deliver.

One man did the work, though there were others in the background who did not show themselves. When the valuables had been collected the passengers were permitted to return to the coach. One, the niece of the Denver banker, Miss Frances Delaney, lagged behind and whispered to the road agent:

"What am I to do?"

"Do! Get into the coach!"

When Snakes Sleep.

As a rule, venomous snakes sleep by day and wander abroad in the shades of evening to seek food or drink or meet their mates in the wood path.

During the day each will be found in his peculiar habitat coiled up in some retired spot where the feet of men or beasts are not want to disturb.

"But I want to go with you."
"Oh, you do. Well, I reckon you can do that. Come along."

When the coach started on the girl was missed by her uncle, the coach was stopped, a search was made, her name was shouted, but there was no Miss Delaney.

An hour later two mounted men, approaching one another on the Denver and Laramie road, each hearing the other's horse's hoofbeats, drew rein. Presently one called to the other:

"Who are you?"

"I'm Walter Blake of Denver. Who are you?"

There was some delay in the reply which came evidently of the consultation:

"I got a gal here who says she's made a mistake. She knows you. You were to have pretended to rob the Denver coach and carry her off to get her away from her guardian uncle. She thought I was you and wanted to come along. I ain't got no use for her."

"You don't say so! Thank heaven! Lucky me! I robbed the wrong coach and took a rancher's daughter."

"Well, I tell you what you do. Turn over the proceeds, and I'll turn over your gal."

"I'm no robber."

"I am."

"Come down with the dust."

Blake thought the matter over. If it were not for the two girls, one of whom he had kidnapped and the other had kidnapped herself, he might have either turned and run or fought. As it was, there was nothing to do but surrender not only the rancher's and his daughter's valuables, but every dollar he had with him, and this, since he had provided himself for a bridal trip, was considerable. Everything was given up, and Frances Delaney was permitted to ride forward.

"Stupid!" was her first word.

"You wrote you would be in the coach tonight. I didn't know there were two coaches."

There was little else spoken between the lovers till they and the rancher's daughter reached Denver, where Blake turned the latter, with many shamefaced apologies, over to her father and asked for an account of the property he had taken from the banker. When the account was paid and the amateur road agent figured up the amount the effort had cost him it seemed a pretty high price to pay for a wife whom he hadn't succeeded in kidnapping. Miss Delaney was so mortified and incensed over the matter that she turned a cold shoulder to her lover, whom her uncle now said it would be necessary for her to marry to save her good name. She remained resolute in her refusal to do so for a year; then, as Blake determined to take up his residence in San Francisco, she relented, glad to get away from the ridicule she found it impossible to live down in Denver.

LULU ROSS MEDGELEY.

The Albanians.

Albanians believe that they have a better right to exist than other races and that all other races, being inferior, are on earth only to serve them. Death has no terrors for the Albanian, for his highest philosophy is in the saying, "Dying is a plague, but it is half a plague to live."

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AN OPIUM MONOPOLY.

United States' Plan to Create One in the Philippines.

PROCEEDS FOR USE IN EDUCATION

Government Will Sell Privilege of Handling the Drug Every Three Years to Highest Bidder to Save Americans and Filipinos—Sale Restricted to Chinamen Who Are Habitual Users.

The Philippine government is preparing to create an opium monopoly in the archipelago and sell it to the highest bidder, says a special Washington dispatch to the New York World. The scheme has been under consideration for three months and has been approved by the war department.

The contemplated action is based on the theory that it will restrict the use of the drug to Chinamen who have used it all their lives and prevent its indiscriminate sale to Americans and Filipinos, many of whom are falling victims to it.

Colonel Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, said of the plan the other night:

"Opium is now smuggled into the islands in immense quantities and sold almost openly to Americans and Filipinos as well as Chinamen and Chinese half breeds. It was decided that the use of the drug could be restricted only by farming out the privilege of handling it, and this will be done."

"The bidders will be confined to Chinamen, and the highest bidder will get the privilege for three years. Public hearings on the subject have been going on in the Philippines for three months, and no better plan could be suggested."

"There has been a little objection from the United States and some from the Chinamen in the Philippines, who will have to pay more for their opium on account of the duty which it now escapes."

"After the privilege is sold opium can be sold in the Philippines only by the Chinamen who get the contract and his agents. The contractor will be under heavy bonds to guarantee compliance with the restrictions imposed, and so will his agents. They can sell the drug only to Chinamen more than twenty-five years old who have used it all their lives."

"They cannot sell it to Americans, Filipinos or half breed Chinamen nor to any Chinaman who cannot prove that he has been a regular user of it. Every agency will be open to government inspection, and the traffic will be closely watched. All the opium will pass through the custom house and pay duty. Any one can import opium, but it can be sold only by the successful bidder for the privilege of handling it and his agents."

"I presume the sale of the privilege will bring \$100,000 or more. The proceeds will be devoted to sending Filipino youths to the United States to attend school, to build schools and other educational purposes."

"The opium traffic in the Straits Settlements, Indo-China and other oriental dependencies is controlled on a similar basis. The Philippine plan will be better than any of the others, as it will impose restrictions that will keep the drug out of the hands of every one but the natural and habitual user of it. They would get it anyway, and it was decided that it was wiser to absolutely restrict its use to them and make it a source of revenue to the government than to allow it to be smuggled in and sold to any one. I expect to hear any day that the contract has been let."

TALES OF CITIES.

Soft coal smoke must go. There has for a long time been no excuse for its toleration in New York.—New York Tribune.

There are too many young men in Harrisburg who complain that they cannot afford to get married. Why don't they say "too selfish" and be truthful about it?—Harrisburg Telegraph.

Philadelphia and Washington are arresting and fining men for spitting on the sidewalk. If Pittsburg should try that reform we would have to increase the police force by a thousand men to keep up with the violators of the law.—Pittsburg Gazette.

MINERS WOOING THRIFT

Coal Handlers Becoming More Temperate and Saving.

GOOD USE MADE OF BACK PAY.

That Awarded by Strike Commission to Workers in Anthracite Region Mostly Deposited in Savings Banks. Self Improvement Through Union Loans—Longing For Greater Share of Operators' Profits.

The mine workers of the anthracite region have now all received the back pay due them from Nov. 1 to April 1, being the 10 per cent increase on their earnings in that period granted them by the strike arbitration commission, writes the special correspondent of the New York Post from Wilkesbarre, Pa. What they have done with it has been an interesting study. Approximately the amount paid was \$2,425,000, an average of about \$10.50 to each of the 144,000 mine workers, but as many of them are boys the amounts can best be judged by an estimate of what the different classes of workers received. This is as follows:

	Number.	Wages.
Miners	37,000	\$390,000
Laborers	25,000	420,000
Drivers and runners	10,300	125,000
Door boys and helpers	2,500	25,000
Other outside employees	15,000	300,000
Blacksmiths and carpenters	2,300	35,000
State pickers	24,700	140,000
Other outside employees	21,200	320,000
Firemen	2,500	65,000
Engineers	1,500	45,000
Total	144,300	\$2,425,000

This amount was paid to the men chiefly during the last fifteen days of May, as the strike commission provided that it should be paid before June 1. A careful inquiry reveals the handsome fact that most of it was put in the savings accounts at the banks, fully 90 per cent of the foreign workers thus disposing of it. Others used it to pay debts contracted during the big strike, but these were only those of large families or spendthrifts. The steady work since the ending of the strike has enabled most of the mine workers to dispose of any debts they contracted during the long idleness, and the great majority looked upon the back pay as clear profit. They have added to it the savings from the 10 per cent increase in wages since April 1, they having now had three payments and the fourth being due.

There were some miners, as on ordinary pay day nights, who celebrated the back wages payment by a spree, and in some of the villages where there are foreigners chiefly few went to work for two days following the receipt of the back pay. This falling, however, is growing much less marked than in the past, and whereas a few years ago it was the majority who got drunk after pay day, it is now the minority, and a small one. This is largely due to the organization of temperance and social societies which have prospered marvelously in the last two years. Whatever else the unionizing has accomplished it has developed the social side of the foreigner's character, encouraged him to communicate with his fellow workers, to expand his vocabulary to other English words than swear words and to broaden and educate him. He is now most active in the discussions at the locals, and he is represented by a goodly proportion of officials in the local and district boards, every vice president of the union in the three districts being of foreign birth or extraction.

Another service to which the back pay was put was to pay the expenses of weddings. Inquiries of the marriage license clerks at Scranton, Wilkesbarre and Pottsville, the three large centers of the region, show that there have been more licenses granted in the early days of June than in any preceding year and that most of them have been to mine workers. This matrimonial rush is continuing unabated, while furniture dealers and landlords watch it with gratification.

Like other men, the mine worker, now that he has gained some wants more, and there are not a few looking forward to the time, three years hence, when the present agreement with the operators expiring, they will be able to ask for a still further increase. They say now that the operators who are increasing the tide water price of coal 10 cents a month until it has been increased 50 cents will gain more than \$20,000,000, while of the increased price the mine workers will get only \$9,000,000. What gain is coming their way they want at once.

"Motor" Is the Proper Term.

Automobile always was a long and bulky word for the horseless vehicles. Society has settled upon a term that just now is in general use, says the New York Press. It is "motor," and you make no mistake by using it. It has been selected deliberately, and probably the English adopted the word first. The abbreviation "auto" was used for awhile, and "bubble" was the facetious term. "Bubbling" was the slangy verb for the sport in the summer of 1901. "Mobling" is retained by a few, but "motor" is the approved noun. Evidently John D. Rockefeller and his kin approve the word "motor," for they have changed the terms of warning on their Long Island estate, and now the signs on the Rockefeller estate in the Shinnecock hills bear the inscription, "Motors not allowed on these grounds."

To Honor Safety Bicycle Inventor.

J. K. Stanley, the inventor of the safety bicycle, is to be immortalized by a memorial in England, for which \$2,500 has already been subscribed. The subscriptions are coming in very liberally at present.

SIRENS AND SONS.

Dr. S. N. D. North has assumed the directorship of the census bureau at Washington, to succeed William B. Merriam.

Chester I. Long, the new senator from Kansas, is an enthusiastic fisherman and belongs to a trout luring club in Colorado.

Professor Walkhoff of Munich, who has given much time to the study of prehistoric man, has come to the conclusion that our oldest male ancestors could not talk.

Commodore Vanderbilt, the first of the Vanderbilt family and founder of its fortune, used to say this: "Never tell anybody what you are going to do till you do it."

A. W. Longfellow of Boston, a nephew of the poet Longfellow, is the architect engaged for the building of a library on the old Wadsworth-Longfellow estate, at Portland, Me.

To Professor Angelo Hellprin has been awarded by the Geographical society of Philadelphia the Ellisha Kent Kane medal, only conferred on two scientists before. He has also been re-elected president of the society.

Lord Wemyss is the only man who ever struck King Edward. When Prince of Wales the king sat directly in front of Wemyss, who crushing the prince's high hat when bringing his hand down to forcibly illustrate an argument.

The venerable Parke Godwin has been celebrating his eighty-seventh birthday, and he appears to be in a sufficiently vigorous and healthy state of mind and body to enable him to enjoy the festivities and to appreciate the congratulations.

Bear Tracks, outside the five civilized tribes of the Indian Territory, is the only Indian legislator in the world. He is a member of the legislature of South Dakota and resides at Hot Springs. Bear Tracks is an Ogalalla Sioux and is an expert barber by trade.

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